

His Majesties

Most Gracious

S P E E C H

Together with the

ord Chancellors,

To Both Houses of *Parliament*.

To which is added

His Lordships severall **SPEECHES;**

As also those of

J O B C H A R L E T O N,

At his Admission of *Speaker* to the Honourable
HOUSE of COMMONS.

ed at the Opening of the Parliament, on Tuesday February 4.
And Wednesday February 5. 1672.

y HIS Majesties Special Command.

ed at DUBLIN by Benjamin Tooke, Printer to
KING's most Excellent Majesty; And are to be
by Joseph Wilde Bookseller in Castle-street, 1672.

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His Majesties Gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament, Wednesday Feb. 5. 1672.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Am glad to see you here this day; I would have called you together sooner, but that I was willing to ease you and the Country, till there were an absolute necessity.

Since you were last here, I have been forced to a most important necessary and Expensive War, and I make no doubt, but you will grow to be justable and of that Assistance to go through with it. I refer you to My Declaration for the Cause, and indeed the Necessity of this War; and shall now only tell you, That I might have digested the

injuries to my own Person, rather than have brought it to this extremity, if the interest as well as the Honour of the whole Kingdom had not been at stake. And if I had not met this conjuncture, perhaps I had not again ever met with the like advantage. You will find that the last supply you gave Me, did not answer expectation for the ending of it, the payment of my debts. Therefore I must in the next place recommend it to your especial care.

A few days before I Declared the War, I put forth my Declaration for Indulgence to Dissenters, and have hitherto found a good effect of it, by securing peace at home, when War abroad. There is one part in it that hath been subject to misconstruction, which is that concerning the Papists; as if more Liberty were granted them, than to the Recusants; when it is plain there is less. For the others have publick places allowed them, and I never intended that they should have any, but only have the freedom of Religion in their own houses, without any concurrence of others. And I could not but think them less than this, when I had extended so much more grace to others, most of them being Loyal and in the Service of me, and of the King my Father; And in the whole course of this indulgence, I do not intend that it shall any way prejudice the Church I will support its Rights, and it, in its full power. Having said this, I shall take care to receive contradiction in what I have done. And I will deal plainly with you. I am resolved to stick to my Declaration.

There is one Fable more that is maliciously spread abroad, and yet so weak and frivolous, that I once thought it not of moment enough to mention; but it may have gotten ground with some well minded people, and that is, That the Forces I have raised in this War, were designed to control Law and Property; I wish I had had more Forces the Summer last, when I sent them; convinces me I must raise more against this next time; And I do not doubt but you will consider the charge of them in your Supplies. I will conclude with this assurance to you, That I will preserve the true Reformed Protestant Religion, and the Church as it is now Established in this Kingdom, and that no mans property or Liberty shall ever be invaded.

I leave the rest to the Chancellor

The Lord Chancellors Speech.

My Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens and
Burgesses of the House of Commons.

THe King hath spoken so fully, so excellently well, and so like Himself, that you are not to expect much from me. There is not a word in His Speech that hath not its full weight: And, I dare with assurance say, will have effect with you. His Majesty had called you sooner, and His Affairs required but that He was resolved to give you all the ease, and vacancy to your own private concerns; and the People as much respite from Payments and Taxes, as the necessity of His business, or their preservation would permit. And yet (which I cannot but here mention to you) by the crafty insinuations of some ill affected persons, there have been spread strange and desperate rumours, which your meeting together this day, hath sufficiently proved both malicious, and false.

His Majesty hath told you, that He is now engaged in an important, very expensive, and indeed a War absolutely necessary, and unavoidable. He hath referred you to His Declaration, where you will find the Personal indignities by Pillage and Medals, and other publique Affronts, His Majesty hath received from the States, their breach of Treaties both in the *Surinam*, and *East-India* business: and at they came to that height of insolence, as to deny the honour and right of *Flag*, though and undoubted Jewel of this Crown, never to be parted with, and by them particularly owned, in the late Treaty of *Breda*, and never contested any age. And whilst the King first long expected, and then solemnly demanded Satisfaction, they disputed His Title to it in all the Courts of Christendom, made great offers to the *French King*, if he would stand by them against Us. The most Christian King too well remembered what they did at *Munster*, contrary to many Treaties, and solemn Engagements; and how dangerous a neighbour they were to all Crowned heads.

The King and His Ministers had here a hard time, and lay every day under many Obloquies. Sometimes they were represented as selling all to *France* for money, to make this War: *Portsmouth*, *Plimouth*, and *Hull*, were to be given into the *French* hands for caution. The next day news came, that *France*, and *Holland* were agreed. Then the obloquy was turned from treachery to folly: The ministers were now Fools, that some dayes before were Villains. And indeed the Coffee-houses were not to be blamed for their last apprehensions; since if that Conjunction had taken effect, then *England* had been in a far worse case then now it is, and the War had been turned upon us. But both Kings, knowing their Interests, resolved to join against them, who were the common Enemies to all Monarchies, and I may say especially to ours, their onely Competitor for Trade, and power at Sea, and who onely stand in their way to an universal Empire, as great as *Rome*. This the *States* understood so well, and had swallowed so deep, that under all their present distress, and danger, they are so intoxicated with that vast ambition, that they slight a Treaty, and refuse a Cessation.

this you, and the whole Nation lay before the last War; but it could not be so well timed, or our alliances so well made. But you judged aright, that rate, *Delenda est Carthago*. The Government was to be brought down, therefore the King may well say to you, *Tis your War*. He took His measures from you, and they were just, and right; and He expects a suitable assistance necessary, and expensive an action, which He has hitherto maintained at His charge, and was unwilling either to trouble you, or burden the Countrey, till it came to an inevitable necessity. And His Majesty commands me to tell you, unless it be a certain sum, and speedily raised, it can never answer the occasi-

My Lords and Gentlemen

Anticipation is the great support of War or Peace. This War had never begun, had the States ever slighted the King, or ever refused Him Satisfaction, neither had this War continued to this day, or subsisted now, but that the States were deceived in their measures, and apprehended His Majesty in that great want of money, that He must sit down under any affronts and was not able to begin or, go on a War. Nay, at this day the States support themselves amongst their people by this only fallshood, that they are assured of the temper of *England* and of Parliament, and that You will not supply the King in this War: And that if they can hold out till your meeting, they will have new life, and may take new measures. There are lately taken, two of their principall Agents, with their credentials and Instructions to this purpose, who are now in the Tower, and shall proceed against according to the Law of Nations. But the King is sufficiently assured of His people: Knowes you better: and can never doubt His Parliament. He had not been mentioned, but to shew you of what importance the frankness and reasonableness of this Supply is, as well as the fulness of it. Let me say, the King has brought the States to that condition, that your hearty conjunction, at this time, in supplying His Majesty, will make them never more formidable to us, or dangerous to *England*. And if after this you suffer them to get up, let it be remembered, The States of *Holland* are *Englands* eternal Enemy both by Interest, and Inclination.

In the next place, to the supply for the carrying on of the War, His Majesty recommends to you the taking care of His Debts. What you gave the last Session did not near answer your own expectation. Besides, an other considerable Aid which was designed His Majesty was unfortunately lost in the birth? so that the King was left for the carrying on of His affaires, much against His will, to put a stop to his payments out of the Exchequer. He saw the pressures upon himself, and growing inconveniencies to His people by great interest; and the difference through all Business between Ready money, and Orders. This gave the King the necessity of that proceeding; to make use of His own Revenue, which hath been of so great use in this War. But though he hath put a stop to the Trade, and gain of the Traders, yet he would be unwilling to ruine them; and oppress so many Families, who are concerned in those debts: Besides, it were too disproportionable a burden upon many of His good subjects. But neither the Bankers, nor they, have reason to complain, if you now take them into your care, and they have paid them, what was

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The Lord Chancellors Speech.

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King is very much concerned both in Honour, and Interest to see this done. And he desires you not to mis-time it; but that it may have onely the second place that you will first settle, what you intend about the Supply.

His Majesty has so fully vindicated His Declaration from that Calumny concerning the Papists, that no reasonable scruple can be made by any good man. He is sufficiently justified it by the time it was published in, and the effects He hath from it; and might have done it more, from the agreeableness of it, to His own natural disposition, which no good English man can wish other than it is. He loves blood, or rigorous severities; but where mild or gentle wayes, may be used. A wise Prince, He is certain to chuse them. The Church of England, and all good Protestants have reason to rejoyce in such a Head, and such a Defender. His Majesty doth declare his care and concerns for the Church, and will maintain them their Rights and Priviledges, equal, if not beyond any of His Predecessors: He hath born and bred up in it; it was that His Father died for. We all know how great temptations and offers He resisted abroad, when He was in His lowest condition; and thinks it the honour of His Reign, that He hath been the Restorer of the Church. 'Tis that He will ever maintain, and hopes to leave to posterity, in great lustre upon surer grounds, than our ancestors ever saw it. But his Majesty is not contented that violent ways are the interest of Religion or the Church.

There is one thing more, that I am commanded to speak to you of, which is jealousy that hath been foolishly spread abroad, of the Forces the King hath raised in this War; wherein the King hath opened himself freely to you, and confessed fault on the other hand. For if this last Summer had not proved a miracle of strength and tempests, such as secured their East-India Fleet, and protected their Sea-venture from a discent, nothing but the true reason (want of money) could have justified the defect in the number of our Forces. 'Tis that His Majesty is providing for against the next Spring, having given out Orders for the raising of Seven or Eight Regiments more of Foot, under the Command of Persons of the greatest Fortitude and Quality. And I am earnestly to recommend to you, that in your supplies, will take into your consideration this necessary addition of Charge.

And after His Majesties Conclusion of His Speech, let me conclude; nay, let us conclude with blessing God, and the King. Let us bless God, that he hath given such a King to be the Repairer of our breaches both in Church and State; and Restorer of our paths to dwell in; That in the midst of war and misery, which reigns in our Neighbour-Countries, our garners are full, and there is no complaint in our streets; and a man can hardly know that there is a War. Let us bless God, that hath given this King signally the hearts of His people, and most particularly of Parliament, who in their affection and loyalty to their Prince, have exceeded their predecessors. A Parliament with whom the King hath many years lived in all the Calmness of a happy Marriage. Has the King had a concern? you have provided it. Has His Majesty wanted supplies? you have readily, cheerfully, and freely provided for them. You have relied upon the Wisdom and Conduct of His Majesty in all His affairs; so that you have never attempted to exceed your bounds to impose upon him; whilst the King on the other hand, hath made your Coun-

foundations of all His proceedings, and hath been so tender of you, that He upon His own revenue and credit, endeavoured to support even Foreign wars, he might be least uneasie to you, or burdeasom to His people. And let me that though this Marriage be according to *Moses's* Law, where the husband give a Bill of Divorce, put her away, and take another; yet I can assure you, it is impossible for the King to part with this Parliament, as it is for you to depart from that loyalty, affection, and dutiful behaviour you have hitherto shewed towards Him.

Let us bleſs the King for taking away all our fears, and leaving no room for jealousies; for those assurances and promises He hath made us. Let us bleſs God and King, that our Religion is safe; That the Church of *England* is the care of our King; That Parliaments are safe; That our Properties and Liberties are safe. What we hath a good *English* man to ask, but that this King may long Reigne, and that Triple-alliance of King, Parliament, and People may never be dissolved?

The Lord Chancellors Speech, Feb. 4. 1672.

To my Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens
and Burgesſes of the House of Commons.

HIS Majesty hath commanded me to tell you, that he hath many things to say to you, but he thinks not this a proper time, but will deferre it till the house of Commons be compleated with a new speaker. For his Majesty hath since the last session, as a mark of this Favour to his house of Commons, and that he might reward so good a man taken their late speaker, Sir *Edward Turner*, to be Lord chief Baron of the Exchequer, called him by Writ to be an assistant to this house. I am therefore commanded to acquaint Gentlemen, of the House of Commons, that it is the Kings pleasure you repair to your house, Elect a discreet, Wise, and learned Man, who after he hath been by you presented, and that mention by His Majesty admitted, shall then possess the Office of your common mouth and speaker. And the King is pleased to be here to morrow in the Afternoon, to receive the presentment accordingly.

Sir Job Charleton's Speech, Feb. 5. 1672.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

The Knights, Citizens and Burgesſes of the House of Commons, in obedience to your Royal Command, have proceeded to the choice of a Speaker.

They have among them many worthy persons, eminently qualified for great a Trust; yet with too favourable an eye have cast it upon me, who am very conscious to my self of many infirmities, rendering me much unfit for so great an employment: And although my endeavours of excusing my self before you, have not been successful, yet they have been so indulgent, as to permit me to continue my endeavours therein before your Majesties most piercing and distinguishing judgment. The veneration due to Majesty, which lodgeth in every Loyal breast, makes it not an easie matter to speak before your Majesty at any time, in any capacity; But to speak before your Majesty in your Exaltation thus gloriously supported and attended, and that as Speaker of your house of Commons, requires greater abilities then I can pretend to own; I am not also without that the publick affairs, wherein your Majesty and your Kingdom in this time of time are so highly concerned, may receive detriment through my weakness. I therefore with a plain humble heart, prostrate at your Royal feet, pray that you will Command them to review what they have done, and to provide for another Election.

Mr. Serjeant Charleton.

THe King hath very attentively heard your discreet and handsome discourse, whereby you endeavour to excuse and disable your self for the place of speaker; In answer whereunto His Majesty hath commanded me to say to you, That he doth in no sort admit of the same, For His Majesty hath had long experience of your Ability, good Affection, Integrity and Resolution in several employments of great Trust and Weight; He knows you have been long a Parliament man, and therefore every way fitted and qualified for the Employment: Besides, He cannot but approve the Election of this house of Commons, especially where they have expressed so much judgment in choosing one worthy and acceptable to him, And therefore the King doth allow of the Election and admits you for Speaker.

Mr. speakers speech. Feb. 5. 1672.

Great SIR,

Since it is Your Gracious pleasure not to accept of my humble Excuse, but to give Your Royal approbation to fix me under this great, though honourable weight, and to think me fit to be invested with a Trust of so high a nature as this is.

I take it in the first place to be incumbent upon me, that I render Your Majesty possible thanks, which I now humbly do with a heart full of all Duty, and affected with a deeper sense of gratitude, than I can find words to express.

Next, from Your Royal determination in this Affair, whereby You have imparted a new Character upon me, I take courage against my own diffidence, & confidently bend my self with such strength and abilities, as God shall give to the service so graciously designed me, no way doubting, that Your Majesty will please to pardon my frailties, to accept of my faithful Endeavours, and always to look favourably on the Work of Your own hands.

And now Sir, my first entrance upon this service, obliges me to make a few necessary but humble petitions on the behalf of your most loyal & dutiful house of Commons.

1. That for our better Attendance on the publick Service, we and our Servants may be free in our Persons and Estates, from Arrests and other Disturbances.
2. That in our Debates, Liberty and Freedom of Speech be allowed us.
3. That as occasion shall require, Your Majesty upon our humble Suit, and at such times as Your Majesty shall judge seasonable, will vouchsafe us access to Your Royal Person.
4. That all our proceedings may receive a favourable Construction.

That God, who hath brought You back to the Throne of Your Fathers, and will give You all our Comforts, grant You a long and a prosperous Reign, and send You Victory over all Your Enemies, and every good mans heart will say, Amen.

The Lord Chancellors speech. Feb. 5. 1672.

Mr. Speaker,

THe Kings Majesty hath heard and well weighed your short and eloquent Oration; And the first place much approves that you have with so much advantage, introduced a short way of speaking upon this occasion: His Majesty doth well accept of all those dutifull and affectionate expressions in which you have delivered your submission to His Royal pleasure; looks upon it as a good Omen to his affairs, and as an evidence that the House of Commons still the same Heart, that have chosen such a mouth. The Conjecture of time, and the Kings Kingdoms affairs require such a House of Commons, such a Speaker; for with reverence to the Holy Scripture upon this occasion the King may say, *He that is not with me is against me*; he that doth not now put his Hand and Heart to support the King in the common cause of the Kingdom, can hardly ever hope for such an other opportunity, or find a time to make Satisfaction for the Omission of this.

Next, I am commanded by His Majesty to answer your four petitions, whereof the first being The freedom of you and your Servants in your persons and Estates, without arrest or other disturbance, the King is graciously pleased to grant it as full as to any of your predecessors.

The Second for liberty and Freedom of Speech, the third for access to his Royal person: And the fourth, that your proceedings may receive a favourable construction, are all freely and fully granted by his Majesty.

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